Items	1991-92	1999-00	%Growth
Rubber manufactured products	117	899	668
Transport equipment	500	810	62
Primary and semi-finished iron and Steel	92	730	693
Electronic goods	267	681	155
Handicrafts excl hand made carpets	243	669	175
Inorganic, organic/agro-chem.	202	636	215
Plastic and Linoleum products	113	604	435
Dyes Intermediates and coal tar	319	588	84
Cashew	274	566	106
Carpet handmade	410	499	22
Spices	152	408	168
Basmati Rice	204	401	96

FICCI report on industrial recession

4261. SHR1MATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the FICCI study, recession hit consumer and manufacturing sector profit fell by 19.5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether according to the reports the overall trends for the April, 2001—February, 2002 period shows that manufactured goods prices have increased by only 2.2 per cent while the profits for the sector went up by a bare 0.9 per cent in the first quarter of this fiscal year;

(c) if so, what are the other main features of the FICCI report in this regard; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The other main findings of the FICCI report titled "Fall in Output Prices Constrains Industry Prospects" are as under:

- The industrial products which have been worst hit by the declining trend in the manufacturing goods prices include textiles, paper, leather, non-metallic, basic metal and alloys and metal products.

• The industry segments that continue to show some improvement in prices include products like beverage and tobacco, chemicals, non-ferrous metals, machinery and equipment and transport goods.

(d) Profitability is a firm level indicator of efficiency of operations. Firms at the micro level, have to improve their efficiency and competitiveness in the global market to increase their profitability. Domestic price inflation will be more in tune with the inflation in international prices, as the country integrates with the global economy. Many Indian companies have undertaken restructuring efforts, the results of which will be seen after a lag.

The Government has taken measures such as increased outlay on infrastructure to remove the bottlenecks and reduce transaction costs, liberalised Mergers and Acquisitions of Indian companies, and rationalised customs and excise duty structure, to provide an enabling environment for the firms to operate efficiently. The RBI has been moving the economy towards a lower interest rate structure to enable industry to reduce cost.

Export of rice

4262. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Navbharat Times" dated 12th April, 2002 under the heading "Behad kam per kiya ja raha hai achhi kism ke chavel ka niryaat"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rice was being offered for export from the Central Pool @ Rs. 5650/- PMT (raw) and Rs. 6000/- PMT (par boiled) since 26.05.01 for the Financial year 2001-02. The said rates would continue upto 10.05.02. FCI has also allowed a margin of 2%+ equivalent percentage of reduction in brokens as per Bill of Lading or 'H' form. The brokens are allowed to be sold in the domestic market.